

Applicants : Ann Marie Schmidt, et al.
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating the ability of an agent to inhibit tumor cell spreading which comprises:

- (a) admixing with cell culture media an effective amount of an agent known to inhibit the interaction between a ~~tumor cell which expresses~~ RAGE (SEQ. ID. NO:1) on a tumor cell and a matrix coated with an extracellular matrix molecule selected from the group consisting of an amphoterin, a cadherin, an integrin and a hyaluronic acid, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, a synthetic organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a carbohydrate, a lipid, and a fragment of an antibody;
- (b) contacting the tumor cell in cell culture with media from step (a);
- (c) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cell in the cell culture; and
- (d) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cell determined in step (c) with the amount determined in the absence of the agent, thus evaluating the ability

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18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the tumor cell is a cell from a subject.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject is a human, a mouse, a rat, a dog or a non-human primate.

21-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the integrin is an $\alpha V \beta V$ integrin, an $\alpha V \beta III$, or an $\alpha I \beta II$ integrin.

36-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is an amphoterin.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is a cadherin.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is an integrin.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is a hyaluronic acid.